

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I, too, rise to oppose the kill motion on LB 126 recognizing the concern that Senator Warner as the Chairman of the Appropriation Committee has. But I would point out to this body that we are the policymaking body of this state and it is unfortunate, I believe, that maybe ninety-nine percent of the time our decisions are based on considerations of the dollars, and hardly any of the time based on philosophy. We all like to believe that we come in here with certain philosophical beliefs and that we have nice philosophical discussions in this body, but rarely do we ever do that. This is an instance, I believe, where we can do that. I think this is a good year to make those types of philosophical decisions. I would suggest to you that each of us as individuals with our businesses, at least I do with my business and I assume most of you do, and I assume that includes Senator Warner, we make decisions sometimes for the future, directions we attempt to go with our personal lives or our personal businesses realizing we don't have the dollars at that point in time to do it, realizing that we can't expend the funds necessary to do whatever it is that we would like to do in the future, but we do make those plans nevertheless. We make those plans on the assumption that when the money is available we will then be able to carry out those particular ideas that we may have. I think this is that type of a decision that we have got here before us today. As Senator Johnson and Senator Cullan have so aptly pointed out, the needs for this program, I don't believe any of us can deny that there are needs. So what we are talking about today is making that philosophical decision as to whether or not this Legislature as the policymaking body of this state wants to go on record with the intent of doing some things for those people who may need some help to get their education, recognizing that right now we don't have the funds to do it but that when that time comes our plans will have been made, our decisions will have been made as to the direction we would like to go. Now I have got a couple of other bills. I have got another bill that is out of the Education Committee that we will be discussing later. I have got in my hand a draft for an A bill of some \$5 million. Now I know that is not going to pass. I don't know whether I am even going to put it in or not, but the bill is here nevertheless and the bill is in my opinion another one of these same instances of where we can decide whether or not we want to go certain directions. Now if this body wants to be reacting all the time, and I suggest to you that is what government does when all they do is look at dollars is react to the current situation and don't make plans for the future, then so be it. But I believe it is our function, no, I believe it is our duty to look into the future and make plans as to the direction we